Peril of an Empty Soul

THE PERIL OF AN EMPTY SOUL.

Mt.12:43-45. Referring to vs.30.

My friend's boy problem. The Boys' irresponsibility and indifference to all efforts to help them.

But irresponsibility and indifference are attitudes of grown-ups as well. Perhaps our boy problem is but a part of a larger one dealing with parents and adults as well.

I haveno solution to the problem, but wish to present a suggestive line of thotthat may help us the better to protect ourselves as Xns.

The text. Jesus and John had come forth with a manifestation of new power fro God and with soul-stirring messages that moved the mulititude. But the leaders held aloof, demanding a sign.

In Jesus' reply to Pharisees he said- Mt.12:30

A new Spirit had come into the world, a new power, a new conceptiion of life, a new interpretation and understanding, but because the new did not fit into their old ideas of things, the the Pharisees held themselves aloof.

Read 43-45, the text.

Jesus likens the Pharisess to a house once occupied by an evil spirit but which had been cleaned out and put in order, then left to stand unoccupied. Then the evil spirit, having found no home and seeing the empty house returns and takes with him seven other devils and the state of that house becomes worse than at first.

I.The peril of an empty house.

1. Our empty houses gave us more trouble than the occupied ones.
2. Insurance policy on mt. home void when house not occupied.
3. An empty house is a pathetic thing to look at.

II. The peril of an empty life.

We no not see so many empty houses nowadays, but how about the people who live in the houses? If the indifference of the Pharisees toward the work of Jesus and John reminded Christ of an empty house, is not the indifference and irresponsibility today towards the fundamentals of right living, towards the higher realities of life, indicative of an emptiness of soul?

1. To own a house is not the same as to occupy it.
   You may own the finest auto, but if you keep it in your garage and never use it?
   You may own the best radio set, but if you never tune in?
   You may own the swellest mansion, but if you neve live in it? (read
   You may own a complete library, but if you never
2. I am accused of being hard on the things I own.
   Clothes, tools, auto, furniture, camera, etc.

   How many Xns today can be accused of being ha oard on their Bibles? hard on their knees in prayer?, hard on their shoes in going about and doing good to others for the sake of the cause of Christ? hard on the seats which they occupy when they go to church? hard on their positions which they hold as officers of the church?

A Christian has had his sins forgiven, his soul-house put in order; he belongs to the church, he has a Bible, he holds to a creed and possess strong convictions concerning certain vital doctrines but how many Xns occupy their religion, actually live in it day by day? Breathe its atmosphere and practice its virtues? Bring up their children in the fear and knowledge of their God?

3. The cae of the bride who went into the wrong apartment, fell out of the window and was killed.
   I am afraid that thousands of Xns are being killed the same way .
   How often you hear people say,"I dont harm an anybody! I dont cheat, I dont lie, I dont gossip Suppose nothing more could be said of Jesus than that he never did anyone a wrong? Supposse Christ had never loved, had never healed, had never tau taught, had never suffered and died, had never gone about doing good?

Such negative Xty is the weakness and curse of the church today. Real Xn living is positive.

And such negative living is the curse of the world today. People are relying on the government to enforce the constitution, on the officers to enforce the laws, on the schools to discipline their children, on the politicians to run the state. Then when things go wrong they blame the government the officers, the politicians, and the teachers in school.

Whereas, the whole trouble all along has been with the people themselves, they are living without responsibility and ~~without~~ are altogether indifferent to ~~the/petties~~ their own personal obligatio ions; then when perils threaten us they readily blame others, never dreaming that they themselves are to blame.

What a tragedy it is to see people own such wonderful soul- mansions, fixed up in the very best Christian way and furnished ~~in~~ with the ~~latest~~ ~~oldest~~ substantial ~~antique~~ Xn ~~st~~ furniture, yet refusing to live in them choosing rather to live in cheap, gaudy jazz apartments instead,, because in them they need not bother much about the other fellow and from them they can sally fort forth to enjoy life without being bothered with the tiresome duties of caring for the home or attendingto community affairs.

The fundamentalists are blaming the liberals for the gross indifference towards the Bible and things sacred which is so in evidence today, and vica versa, the liberals are blaming the fundamentalists; but the truth of the matter is, the evil spirit of SIN has crept into the unoccupied souls of Xns and corrupted the very vision and understanding of persons who ought to know better.

Gambling; graft; 18th amendment, divorce and parental neglect, indecencies of places of amusemen

Are you master of your own thots? or does the Spirit of evil control them?

Who prompts the motives of your heart? Christ in you or Satan?

By what standard do you measure your conduct? By that of an occupied soul or of an empty soul?

Are you Pharisee or truly Xn?